



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Jordan and Evermann (1896) place several nominal species of *Caranx* under *guara* (Bonnaterre); as *platessa*, C. and V., East Indian, of which *georgianus*, C. and V., is probably a synonym, and *chilensis* Gay, West Coast of South America. Comparing figures of the Australian fish (*georgianus*, Ogilby, 1893, Edible Fishes of New South Wales, and McCulloch, 1915, Australia, Fisheries, 3, pl. 20) and the Chilean fish (*chilensis*, Gay, 1848, Hist. Chile, lct., pl. 6 with our specimen from Bermuda, the Bermuda fish is seen to differ markedly in thicker lips and in having the lower jaw notably included. This character will then readily separate Atlantic *guara*, from Pacific *platessa*.

J. T. NICHOLS,  
New York, N. Y.

## COLUBER SWALLOWING A STONE

It is a well-known fact that toads will snap up and swallow almost any small object that is rolled to them, shot, for example, and I recall one instance of a toad swallowing even a burning cigar butt, but it has only recently come to my attention that snakes, too, are not always very discerning in their selection of food.

One day during the summer of 1918 my mother was visiting Mrs. William G. Jones at Barachias, Ala., and while sitting on the veranda the two ladies were startled by a commotion among the fowls in the poultry yard. Investigation disclosed the cause to be a "chicken snake" (*Elaphe obsoleta*) that had just robbed a hen's nest. The snake was killed and found to contain a smooth, ovate stone that had served as a nest-egg in the pilfered nest.

Mrs. Jones has informed me that several years previous to this occurrence another "chicken snake" swallowed a china nest-egg from one of her hen's

nests. Neither of these nests contained anything besides the nest-eggs at the time the snakes visited them.

The interesting question arises as to why these snakes were unable to distinguish between an artificial nest-egg and a real egg; the difference being apparent to a human being upon a mere glance or touch. Of course, if a snake depends upon the olfactory sense alone the case is clear enough because even the china egg would retain the odor of a hen's body for a considerable time. Still, a snake certainly should be familiar enough with stones to be able to distinguish between them and articles possessing food value. But I will content myself with a statement of the facts and leave conclusions to be drawn by others more versed in snake psychology.

ERNEST G. HOLT,  
*Barachias, Ala.*

### *TANTILLA CORONATA* IN VIRGINIA

In a small collection of reptiles recently sent me for examination by Mr. W. T. Davis of Staten Island, I find a specimen of *Tantilla coronata* which was collected by him in Buckingham County, Virginia, near the James River about opposite Wingina, Nelson County, Virginia, on July 15, 1917. The specimen was found under a stone.

This is a new record for the state and a far north record for *Tantilla coronata* which has not previously been recorded north of Raleigh, N. C.

E. R. DUNN,  
*Cambridge, Mass.*